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Russell Sees Doubt In Subbing CIA Funds

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WASHINGTON, April 7—Sen.

Richard B. Russell, D-Ga., declared Friday he has "doubts" about replacing Central Intelligence Agency subsidies to private organizations with federal funds.

The Georgia senator is a reluctant recruit for a special committee appointed by President Johnson Thursday to look into the matter.

The President last week endorsed the report of a Cabinet-level committee recommending an end to all secret government financing of international programs by the CIA.

Sen. Russell, chairman of the important CIA watchdog committee in the Senate, was called earlier this week by Under Secretary of State Nicholas Katzenbach who asked him to join a select committee seeking alternate means of financing the private groups.

"I TOLD him I didn't want to serve on it (the President's committee)," Sen. Russell said Friday. "I don't like to do things when I don't have the time to do a proper job."

Sen. Russell suggested that he could recommend another member of the Senate Armed Services Committee to take his place. The Georgian is also chairman of the Armed Services Committee.

Sen. Russell said Friday, "I guess the suggestion didn't satisfy him (Katzenbach)." At any rate the President announced appointment of 18 members to the special committee Thursday and Sen. Russell's name was the third on the list.

SECRETARY of State Dean

Rusk is chairman of the panel which will study the recommendations of the Cabinet-level committee headed by Mr. Katzenbach.

The Katzenbach panel proposed that some sort of mechanism be set up to provide openly federal funds for overseas operations of private organizations deserving private support.

Sen. Russell said Friday that he had "wanted the CIA to get rid of all of that (secret subsidies) before."

"It served a useful purpose for a very long time (since the early 1950s)," Sen. Russell stated. "But I think conditions have changed now."

Speaking of the proposal to supply the private organizations with open government financial support, Sen. Russell said "I have my doubts about any of it."

"I think some of the organizations could be discontinued completely" as far as federal aid is concerned," he added.